

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and what needs to be changed.

A method of retrieving documents from a database comprising:

- generating a query in a first language;
- parsing said query into a plurality of terms;
- translating said plurality of terms into a second language;
- listing a plurality of permutations of said terms;
- testing said permutations against each document in said database; and
- retrieving documents from said database based on said test.

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- computing a score for each of said permutations of said translated terms against each document of said database having text in said second language wherein said score

indicates a measure of relevance of each permutation to each document.

3. A method of retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 2, further comprising:

retrieving documents from said database based on said score.

4. A method of retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 2, further comprising:

sorting said scores of said permutations to identify the highest ranking permutation; and

retrieving a document associated with said identified highest ranking permutation.

5. A method of retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 4, further comprising:

retrieving a plurality of documents in an order corresponding to an order generated by said sorting of said permutations.

6. An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, comprising:

a computer coupled to a storage unit and to a display unit, said storage unit stores a database in at least one file;

said computer generates a query in a first language;

said computer parses said query into a plurality of terms;

said computer translates said plurality of terms into a second language corresponding to at least one language of documents stored in said database;

said computer generates a listing of a plurality of permutations of said translated terms;

said computer tests said permutations against each document of said database; and

said computer retrieves documents from said database in said storage unit based on said test.

7. An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 6, wherein:

said computer computes a score for each of said permutations of said translated terms against each

